

Sunday, 5/24/2015, Session 1 Notes: "Jonah – The Culprit" – Jonah 1:7-11

If you have not already, Review the [notes](#) and [sermon](#) from Wednesday Evening's Bible study.

Reading: [Jonah 1:1-11](#)

Read Jonah 1:7-11 from the [German translation](#).

JONAH 1:7-11

Jonah the Culprit!

[Jonah 1:7](#) *"Let us cast lots that we may know whose cause this evil is upon us."* Not one said, *"It is I"*.

Is this an OK for gambling?

Is this an OK on being superstitious?

No to question #1 and #2

Casting lots was an impartial way for the Israelites to determine God's Will. [Proverbs 18:18](#) shows us how casting lots settles disputes, and keeps strong opponents apart.

God can certainly use whatever he desires. Was Samuel called back from the dead by the witch of En-dor ([I Sam. 28:7-20](#))? The witch could not do it! Only God can raise him up. Only God has the power over death and the grave. He has the keys of hell and of death ([Rev. 1:18](#)). He can grant and use various circumstances.

They cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah.

[Jonah 1:8](#) – Apparently Jonah has not said anything about his calling, nor anything about His God!

"What is your occupation?" – He kept quiet about being a prophet.

"Where are you from?" – Jonah had not told them that he was from Gath-hepher, in the northern kingdom of Israel. He has not said anything about his home town.

"What is your country?" – Jonah had not told them that he was a citizen of Israel and belonged to the Israelite people, who had a revelation of the living and true God.

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BEING OUT OF THE WILL OF GOD DECREASED HIS WITNESSING EFFECTIVENESS.

NOTE: The mariners observed much about this situation, peculiar and uncommon – either in the storm itself or their own distress. They concluded that it was a messenger of divine justice, sent to arrest someone on that ship as a guilty person, perhaps a murderer! Or, some enormous crime. *BAD!*

These sailors wanted to know! They wanted this matter settled – *WHO* specifically is causing the problem?

THEY APPEALED TO THE JUDGMENT OF GOD. In [Prov. 16:33](#) *"The lot is cast into the lap, but the decision is wholly from the Lord."*

THE LOT FELL ON JONAH – He could have saved them some trouble had he just said: *"I AM THE MAN"*.

ARE THERE OTHER SINNERS ON THE SHIP? OH YES! BUT THE STORM IS SENT AFTER JONAH! GOD DEALS SPECIFICALLY WITH INDIVIDUALS. GOD HAS MANY WAYS TO BRING TO LIGHT THAT WHICH SEEMS TO BE HIDDEN!

Jonah is brought to the master and mariners. He was a stranger to the mariners, but not to the *MASTER*. They had no specific reason to be against him. They did not fly outrageously upon him. They just calmly and mildly enquired into his case.

"Tell us, we pray thee, what is the matter?"; "Tell us for whose cause this evil is upon us".

As they looked at Jonah's demeanor, behavior, decency – "Could we have missed the mark?" They wanted to know about his country and his calling. Was he a diviner, a sorcerer, a student of black art? Are you a Chaldean – noted for divination? Or an Arabian noted for stealing?

[Jonah 1:9](#) – Jonah gives answer to those asking the questions.

- He tells them that He is a Hebrew – not only of the nation of Israel, but of their religion, which they received from their fathers.
- *"What is your occupation?"* Here Jonah gives a testimony of his relationship to the Lord God Jehovah! *"I fear the Lord Jehovah that is the God I worship, the God I pray to, even the God of heaven, the Sovereign*

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Lord of all that has made the sea and the dry land and has the command of both"; "My God is the God of the whole earth." Jonah was declaring.

- Jonah is condemning himself for his own folly and also presenting a message to those who emphasized polytheism (many gods).

What was his crime? He was fleeing from the presence of the Lord—running away from his duty. *A CONFESSION OF HUMILITY AND SHAME!*

[Jonah 1:10](#) – Impression upon the Mariners. *"The men were exceedingly afraid"*

Jonah's God was the God who made the sea and the land.

Jonah's God was angry with one that feared and worshipped, though for once he is running from his assigned duty.

They perhaps thought, *"If a prophet is severely punished for once running away, what will become of us? If the righteous will scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"* – [1 Pet. 4:17, 18](#)

They then ask, *"Why – a man who fears the God who has made the sea and land – Why would he be so foolish as to think that he could flee from His presence?"* *WHAT AN ABSURD, UNACCOUNTABLE THING TO DO! HAVE WE EVER BEEN GUILTY OF SUCH?*

[Jonah 1:11](#) – *"What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us...?"* Note the [German translation](#) of verse 11: Jonah is delinquent – Jonah is penitent. Jonah is a prophet, so they ask *HIM* what to do. They did not insult him, or choose to be rude.

WHAT IS OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THOSE OVERTAKEN IN A FAULT? IF UNBELIEVING MARINERS COULD HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE – SHOULDN'T WE?

Note: If our disobedience raises the storm, then what are the steps we should take to calm the troubled seas?

DISCOVER (your own sin)! *DETEST* (the sins you recognize)! *DISCLAIM* (those sins)! *DECLARE* (your sins to God – [1 John 1:9](#))!